The one by foreigners was what is usually known as the "open door policy." Its purpose was to keep all of China accessible to the trade, and, so far as possible, to the other economic activities of citizens of all nations—to insure equality of treatment to all in all the Empire. It was not especially altruistic, for the powers who were its leading advocates had their own interests chiefly in mind. However, it had as an obvious corollary the preservation of the territorial integrity of China. In its broadest sense the policy was not new. Great Britain had not attempted to restrict to itself the privileges accorded it in 1842. The most-favored-nation clauses which were in several of the treaties between China and Western powers were a distinct attempt in that direction. Repeatedly in their intercourse with China—as in 1858—several of the major powers had acted cooperatively.

As we have suggested, the British had viewed with alarm the leasing of territories and the creation of spheres of influence, for these threatened to obstruct the free course of their commerce—their chief interest in China. They reluctantly entered the struggle to get what special privileges they could, but repeatedly their spokesmen declared themselves for the open door and their government made several attempts to preserve it.

The best-remembered action of this time in favor of the open door was by the United States. Americans were as yet too engrossed in the development of the resources of their own broad land to take so active an interest in economic openings in China as did some other peoples. They had, however, a little commerce -and, as we have seen, had taken part in the struggle for railway concessions. In 1898, moreover, the United States acquired the Philippines and Hawaii. Now, in 1899, Secretary of

State John Hay attempted to safeguard the open door by obtaining the assent of the powers to certain specific promises—that there should be no interference with any vested interest in any "sphere of interest" or leased territory, that the Chinese tariff should apply to all merchandise in such regions and be collected by the Chinese Government, and that harbor dues and railroad charges in these "spheres" should be equal to all. Notes embodying these proposals were sent to Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Italy, France, and Japan, and a favorable reply was given by all, although evasively by Russia. The Hay notes were in part a surrender of full